

# Calendar No. 1342

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 1268

## EXTENSION OF PAYMENT ON HOMESTEAD ENTRIES ON CEDED LANDS OF THE FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION, MONT.

FEBRUARY 26 (calendar day, MARCH 3), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WHEELER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted  
the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 11752]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11752) to provide for extension of payment on homestead entries on ceded lands of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, State of Montana, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 1318, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 1318, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11752) to provide for extension of payment on homestead entries on ceded lands of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, State of Montana, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 1, line 3, strike out the words "homestead entrymen or entrywomen" and insert in lieu thereof "persons who have made homestead entries."

Page 1, line 4, strike out the word "said."

Page 2, line 3, after the word "any" insert "such persons."

Page 2, lines 3 and 4, strike out "entryman or entrywoman."

Page 2, line 7, strike out the words "entrymen or entrywomen" and insert in lieu thereof "such persons."

This legislation has had the careful consideration of your committee, and it is considered to be fair to both the Indians and the white settlers on this reservation.

It will put into effect the recommendations adopted as results of individual meetings held by both the Indians and the settlers and later at a joint meeting of the Indians and settlers.

The resolution adopted is as follows:

The following resolution was passed at a joint meeting of the Indians and the homesteaders in accordance with notice given by the superintendent of the Fort

Peck Indian Reservation, which meeting was held at the Indian boarding school, Poplar, Mont., November 29, 1924:

"Be it resolved, That homesteaders who have abandoned their homesteads be required to make complete payment within six months after notice, or will result in cancellation of entries, and payment on such abandoned homesteads in no case be extended after November 1, 1925; that the bona fide homesteaders now living upon the reservation be given until November 1, 1925, to make payment of one-half of delinquent payments and interest, and until November 1, 1926, to make the balance of the delinquent payment, failure to make payments when due to result in cancellation of entries.

"JAMES ARCHDALE,  
"MEADE STEELE,  
"GUS M. HEDDRICH,  
"Representing the Indians.  
"I. W. BUCHANAN,  
"E. E. CAREY,  
"H. O. HENDRICKSON,  
"Representing White Settlers."

This legislation meets the approbation of the Department of the Interior as well as that of your committee, as evidenced by the letter of the Secretary of the Interior which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, January 28, 1925.

HON. HOMER P. SNYDER,  
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,  
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: Further reference is made to your letter of January 20, 1925, inclosing for report a copy of H. R. 11752, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, being a bill to provide for extension of payment on homestead entries on ceded lands of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, State of Montana, and for other purposes.

The surplus lands of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation were opened to settlement under the homestead laws under the provisions of the act of Congress of May 10, 1908 (35 Stat. L. 558), by proclamation of the President of July 25, 1913 (42 L. D. 264). The act provided that one-fifth of the appraised value of the land should be paid at the time of entry and the remainder in five equal annual installments in one, two, three, four, and five years, respectively. The time for the payment of purchase money due for such lands has been extended by the acts of March 2, 1917 (39 Stat. L. 944) and December 11, 1919 (41 Stat. L. 363). The Department of the Interior has suspended cancellation of entries for nonpayment of principal since 1921 in cases where the entrymen (or entrywomen) have paid the interest due on the deferred payments. The Indians have, therefore, derived but little benefit from the land or the sale thereof for approximately eight years.

The proposed legislation provides for a definite and early settlement of this matter and closely conforms to resolutions adopted by a joint committee of Indians and homestead entrymen at a meeting regularly called by the reservation superintendent on November 29, 1924. It is believed this legislation is satisfactory to a great majority of both Indians and homestead entrymen on the Fort Peck Reservation.

In view of the above, bill H. R. 11752 meets the approval of this department and it is recommended that this or similar legislation be enacted into law at the present session of Congress.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.